

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: February 28, 2000

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on February 18, 2000

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Radioactive Materials Investigation, Lindsay Light II Site,
Chicago, Illinois**

During the week of February 14, 2000, the Superfund Emergency Response staff investigated an improper excavation involving radioactive materials in the street adjacent to the Lindsay Light II site in downtown Chicago, Illinois. Between 1996 and 1999 twenty-eight thousand tons of radioactive thorium wastes were removed from this site. The adjacent street was potentially underlain with the same radioactivity that, under the terms of a Right-of-Way Agreement between the affected parties, were not to be disturbed without obtaining permits, notifying the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), and conducting health and safety surveillance. The owners and developers had excavated about half a block of street for a sewer pipe without notifying U.S. EPA and without conducting any radiation surveillance. Soils with elevated exposure rates were detected in two pipes in the excavation. Other anomalous readings in the excavation and in soils in a Ford Heights, Illinois, landfill are being evaluated, and the Right-of-Way Agreement is being re-evaluated.

Contacts: Larry Jensen (312-886-5026)

Verneta Simon (312-353-3601)

Meeting, (Quality Assurance Project Plan), Rockwell International Corp. Superfund Site, Allegan, Michigan

On February 15, 2000, a kick-off meeting was held to discuss the quality assurance project plan for the remedial investigation/feasibility study at the Rockwell International Superfund site in Allegan, Michigan. The meeting was attended by Tetra-Tech, U.S. EPA's contractor for the site, the U.S. EPA remedial project manager, and a U.S. EPA chemist. U.S. EPA and Tetra-Tech discussed preliminary data quality objectives for the site, State cleanup standards, and other Federal criteria to use as screening criteria, detection limits, congener-specific polychlorinated biphenyl analyses, and laboratory procedures to address matrix interferences from oil-contaminated media. Tetra-Tech will submit a draft quality assurance project plan for the site on March 15, 2000.

Contact: Karen Cibulskis (312-886-1843)

Five-Year Review Completed, Kurt Manufacturing Company Site, Fridley, Minnesota

On February 15, 2000, William E. Muno, Director, Superfund Division, signed a five-year review for the Kurt Manufacturing Company site in Fridley, Minnesota. The purpose of the review was to evaluate whether the remedial action remains protective of human health and the environment. On April 24, 1984, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency issued a Request for Response Action (RFRA) as a basis for negotiating a Response Order by Consent (Consent Order). A description of the approved response actions were: long-term operation and maintenance of a contaminated groundwater gradient control, pumpout and treatment system which will prevent migration of contaminated groundwater; capping to reduce infiltration through contaminated soils; well abandonment to reduce migration of contaminated groundwater; and long-term monitoring to assess response action performance between aquifers. The five-year site visit confirmed that the remedy remains protective of human health and the environment.

Contact: Gladys Beard (312-886-7253)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Tier Form Information and Completion Workshops, Indiana

On February 14, 2000, the Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention concluded a series of 7 Tier Form Information and Completion Workshops in the State of Indiana. The workshops were held in Valparaiso, Clarksville, Elkhart, Richmond, Fort Wayne, Terre Haute, and Indianapolis. These workshops were designed to help facilities that have difficulty filling out Tier forms or are not sure if they must file. Tier Forms must be filed with the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and the local fire department by March 1 of each year for the previous calendar year. The Forms provide State and local agencies with chemical inventory information that is used to plan for accidental releases of hazardous chemicals. It is anticipated that the workshops will reach more than 350 people from industry and local government.

Contact: Cheryl McIntyre (312-866-1964)

First Responder-Awareness Level Course (Hosted by Tribes), Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

On February 15 and 16, 2000, the First Responder-Awareness Level course was hosted by the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and took place in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. On-Scene Coordinator William Simes and Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) member Bill Sass conducted the response training. Glenn Cekus, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), coordinated the course and gave the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA) section presentation. Twenty students representing Tribal organizations, and a local non-Tribal fire department, successfully completed the course and received completion certificates. The training for this Tribe was significant because the Reservation is on a major transportation route and a chemical release within the Tribal casino in 1998 resulted in the hospitalization of approximately 40 people. This was the second First Responder-Awareness Level course hosted by tribes in Region 5 during Fiscal Year 2000.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

Counter Terrorism, Senior Officials Workshop, Akron, Ohio

On February 14, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator Jim Augustyn

participated in the Domestic Preparedness Senior Officials Workshop for the City of Akron, Ohio. The workshop was comprised of five lecture units, with case study exercises at the end of each unit. The workshop was designed to inform the Senior Leadership of the City of Akron about the National Domestic Preparedness Program. Topics discussed during the case studies included the City's internal notification process, State and Federal notification procedures, the primary and supporting roles of the responding agencies, the immediate preventive actions to be taken by the City, the protection of crime scene evidence, and identification of most likely targets within the City. Participants included the Mayor, senior cabinet officials, and heads of departments for the City of Akron, County, State, and various Federal agencies.

Contact: Jim Augustyn (440-250-1742)

Counter Terrorism Meetings (Domestic Preparedness Chemical Weapons Function Exercise Planning), Toledo, Ohio

On February 15, 2000, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Jim Augustyn and Mark Durno attended a planning meeting with the City of Toledo to assist in preparation for the Domestic Preparedness Chemical Weapons Function Exercise scheduled for June 22, 2000. The planning meeting discussed details of the exercise location, support personnel requirements, exercise objectives, and supporting agencies' level of participation. The functional exercise will be designed to test the City of Toledo's response capability, and will include equipment and personnel roll-out to a weapons of mass destruction incident. The exercise will encompass every facet of the City's governmental and medical agencies.

On February 17, 2000, OSC Augustyn attended a planning meeting with the City. The meeting covered local, State, and Federal level of support to the exercise. Several equipment manufacturers' representatives attended the meeting and displayed equipment that the City will purchase in the near future.

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cc: Steve Herman (OECA)

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